

OSCAR LEESER  
MAYOR

JOYCE A. WILSON  
CITY MANAGER

BEN FYFFE  
INTERIM DIRECTOR



CITY COUNCIL  
ANN MORGAN LILLY, DISTRICT 1  
LARRY E. ROMERO, DISTRICT 2  
EMMA ACOSTA, DISTRICT 3  
CARL L. ROBINSON, DISTRICT 4  
DR. MICHEL R. NOE, DISTRICT 5  
EDDIE HOLGUIN, JR., DISTRICT 6  
LILY LIMÓN, DISTRICT 7  
CORTNEY CARLISLE NILAND, DISTRICT 8

## MUSEUMS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS

The City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board (MCAAB)  
Thursday – October 17, 2013 – 4:00 p.m.  
El Paso Museum of History, Seminar Room

### MINUTES

1. **Call to Order and Roll Call.** Meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m.

Roll Call	Board Member	Present	Absent
	R. Katherine Brennand	X	
	Bernice Gregory		X
	Jeannine Kennedy	X	
	Ann F. Kruzich	X	
	Daniel Longoria		X
	Marina Monsisvais	X	
	William Moody	X	
	Analinda Moreno	X	
	Susan Novick		X
	Isela Ocegueda	X	
	Jane B. Thomas	X	

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2013 DEC 12 PM 4:15

Consecutive absences: Bernice Gregory (2<sup>nd</sup>), Daniel Longoria (8<sup>th</sup>).

Others present: Ben Fyffe, Julia Bussinger, Michael Tomor, Socorro Diamondstein, and Misty Castaneda.

2. **Call for Public Comment.** None.

3. **Discussion and Action on Approval of Minutes for September 19, 2013.** Chair began by allowing members time to review the minutes of the last meeting. Jane Thomas moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

4. **Museum Reports.** Michael Tomor began with a brief overview of exhibit openings: *Discovering the American Modern*, which opened on September 7<sup>th</sup>; *Navigating Art Languages*, which opened on September 16<sup>th</sup> and Juan Sandoval's private collection, which opened the previous Thursday night. The Orientation Gallery and conference room were renamed after two members of the community made generous donations to the endowment. Michael continued with workshops, programming and events, mentioning that workshops for kids and families have been very successful and the preschool program has been changed to 1:30pm on a monthly basis. Upcoming events in November include family day for Dia De Los Muertos, a Texas Tech lecture, art classes and a concert by Laura Tate Goldman singing classic love songs from the first quarter of the 20<sup>th</sup> century in a free concert to the public. About \$3,000 is being invested in LED lights for front lighting for the auditorium in a follow-up to the \$40,000 upgrade to audio/visual in an effort to make it a more appealing location for performing arts groups to use. Will be launching a Guggenheim Masterpiece Series featuring 10 masterpieces from the Guggenheim Museum in New York. Contracts are currently being reviewed in Legal; this is a \$200,000 project with six exhibits over the span of 2 years.

Julia began with the Archaeology Museum, reporting that this calendar year was very successful due to the Voladores performance and the Jornada Mogollon Conference, which was very well attended. Mentioned that tours in Spanish are now being offered, the Diorama Gallery is being enhanced, museum trails are a work in progress, the gazebo is now free of mud and museum collections continues to be a priority. For the History Museum, Julia began by mentioning the *La Llorona* exhibit, which is being hosted for the

second time in the Centennial Gallery, contains new images and will be up through November 7<sup>th</sup>. Julia continued by noting that the 5<sup>th</sup> Wall of Giants is dedicated to the UTEP Centennial and the grand opening is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup>. In conjunction with every Wall of Giants there is a lecture series, workshops presentations and educational programming. Ben Fyffe added that the City is in the process of determining whether or not the software company that developed the Touch City Wall is a sole source provider, or if it will need to be parsed out. He continued by adding this exciting bond project will provide a digital wall outside the museum in which people can interface, upload digital images, share their histories and send out digital postcards, ideally interfacing with the digital walls in Copenhagen, Cairo and soon in Glasgow. Julia opened the floor for questions, there were none, and she concluded her reports.

**5. Discussion and Action on the Definition of the Term "Artist" for Commission of Public Art Projects.** Marina Monsisvais began by explaining to members that the Public Art Committee (PAC) is working on the Public Art Master Plan with consultants who are reviewing their processes and making suggestions on how to better themselves as they move on to bigger projects. One detail that was left out was an actual definition for the word "artist". She continued by saying that the definition approved by the PAC (attached as part of these minutes) was important because the PAC guidelines never contained such a definition before. Jane Thomas moved to accept the definition; Ann Kruzich seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**6. Discussion and Action on Cultural Funding Program Applicant Appeal: Free Hole Poetry Slam.** Ben Fyffe began by introducing Socorro Diamondstein, the Cultural Funding Coordinator, and briefly reminded members that this department grants out support to individual artists and arts organizations once a year for work that spans the whole fiscal year. Built into that process is an application and a community panel review, in which panelists that this body approves of, reviews and scores each application. After that process, the proposal is declined or accepted with funding attached and contracting begins. Three years ago, Texas Commission on the Arts advised us that our process was exemplary, but they did advise us to build in an appeal process in the event that an applicant felt they did not receive a fair hearing, they should have an outlet. This is only the fourth applicant to take advantage of that process. Free Hole Poetry Slam is a collective of spoken word artists who organize poetry slams throughout the community. They bring in visiting artists from around the country and also do workshops in schools and performances primarily in coffee shops around the community. This particular collective has submitted an appeal request and met with Socorro and Ben, specifically citing misrepresentation of information at their panel hearing. Their case suggested that one panelist should have recused herself. Ben mentioned that panelists are required to sign a conflict of interest form/confidentiality agreement and agree to recuse themselves, as we cannot tell them to. This particular situation has brought out the need to look at a system where the highest and lowest scores are dropped in order to get a true medium for each applicant. With that, he recommended recusal of the panelist in question and putting forward a new score for the organization of '79', with funding of \$2,000 to do community poetry slams throughout this fiscal year. General discussion followed.

Marina Monsisvais moved to accept the recusal; William Moody seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

Katherine Brennand moved to grant the award of \$2,000; Marina Monsisvais seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously.

**7. Update on Notification of Mayor and Council Members for Current and Upcoming Vacancies.** Ben Fyffe shared that there have been three re-appointments and one new appointment to the Museums and Cultural Affairs Advisory Board. There are seven vacancies that still need to be filled, and we are working with the City Representatives to try and get them filled. Jeannine Kennedy asked where the vacancies were, and Ben replied there was one with Rep. Romero, one with Rep. Acosta, one with Rep. Robinson, two with Rep. Holguin, one with Rep. Limón and one with the Mayor.

**8. Adjournment.** Chair requested a motion to adjourn. Marina Monsisvais moved to adjourn; Jeannine Kennedy seconded; all members voted in favor, none opposed, and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m. Next meeting scheduled for November 21, 2013.

Approved for content by:  
Isela Ocegueda, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:  
Misty Castaneda, Administrative Assistant  
Museums & Cultural Affairs Department

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2013 DEC 12 PM 4:15

# Definition of “Artist”

---

**Artist:** An individual or collective generally recognized by critics and peers as a professional practitioner of the visual, performing or language arts, based on a body of work, educational background, experience, exhibition history, publication and/or creation of artwork.

**Eligibility:** For commissioning purposes, an artist cannot be:

- A member of the prime consulting firm, or of any sub consulting firm, for the relevant capital project's team.
- Undergraduate or graduate students doing the project as a class requirement.
- City employees or their immediate family members.
- A member of the Cultural Affairs Advisory Board, Public Art Committee or the relevant Artist Selection Panel.

CITY CLERK DEPT.  
2013 DEC 12 PM 4:15